

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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Phone: 503-326-2131
Toll Free: 1-800-338-2157
Email: nass-or@nass.usda.gov
Internet: www.nass.usda.gov/or

Weather: Wet cool conditions continued across the State. All weather stations reported at least some precipitation last week. Detroit Lake, Florence, Crescent City, Astoria, and Tillamook all reported over two inches of precipitation whereas Baker City and Redmond reported only receiving four one-hundredths of an inch. Some precipitation was reported in the form of unusually late snow. High temperatures ranged from 72 in Ontario to only 57 in Lakeview. Low temperatures ranged from 24 in Worden to 43 in Bandon.

Field Crops: Wet cool conditions prevailed again last week throughout the State. Some areas reported field work activities, but most were very limited. Nearly all spring preparation activities were behind normal. This included spraying and fertilizing in addition to tillage and planting. The window for planting some crops will quickly disappear if drier conditions do not start to arrive in the near future. Crops that were planted, along with the hay crops, showed some growth, but again warmer temperatures are needed for things to really get going well.

Vegetables: The weather continued to delay field preparation activities. Many areas reported Farmers markets open and producers of greenhouse-grown vegetables were providing shallots, carrots, onions, and various lettuce crops.

Fruits and Nuts: Most Willamette Valley tree fruits continued in various stages of bloom. Orchard crops in Benton County just finished flowering, as did Lane County prunes/plums and peaches. Apricots were a near freeze out. Recent rains have produced marginal bee activity, which may cause problems for pollination and fruit set. There were quick and intermittent hail storms on Sunday, April 16th which may cause additional problems. Berries began to leaf out and were showing good color.

Hazelnut growers continued to spray for Eastern Filbert Blight. Cool, unsettled conditions continued in Hood River County, slowing bloom development. In the lower Hood River Valley, d'Anjou pears were near full bloom (WSU stages 7); Red Delicious apples were at tight cluster to first pink (WSU stage 4 and 5); Bing cherries were at first white to first bloom (WSU stage 6 and 7); and Pinot Noir grapes were at budswell to wool stage (Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 2 and 3). Wasco County trees were in full bloom. Planting of new trees was active all week as growers are rotating in newer cherry varieties. Plums, pears, apples, and peaches, continued in bloom in southern Oregon. Growers sprayed for moths, scab, and mites in-between rainstorms.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries were still very busy shipping plant material to the east coast. Operations were digging and balling smaller plants and shrubs, and moving container plants. Greenhouses were very busy with flower and vegetable starts and shipping early plant material to retail outlets. Local plant sales were underway and drew large crowds to purchase plants. Annual tulip festival was underway with the tulip blooms around 3 weeks behind schedule with the wet weather.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Pasture and rangeland growth began to pick up in some areas, but warmer temperatures were needed throughout the State. Adequate moisture existed, in most areas, but rangeland and many pastures are well behind normal growth for this time of year. There were some good reports of ponds, which were dry last year, nearly full this spring. Once warmer dry weather starts, pasture grasses should really take off. Producers were turning livestock out where conditions allowed. Supplemental feeding continued across the State. Livestock were reported in good condition, but some cattle producers attributed losing calves to the wet cool conditions.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 04/16/06

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	0	2	51	47
Subsoil	0	5	62	33

Crop Condition-Week Ending 04/16/06

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	0	0	35	62	3
Range and pasture	1	16	30	43	10

Crop Progress-Week Ending 04/16/06

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	52	35	81	74
Barley emerged	28	13	52	43
Spring wheat planted	59	53	85	85
Spring wheat emerged	28	21	50	53
Days suitable for fieldwork	3.2	3.7	-	-

WESTERN OREGON

BENTON/LINN/LANE: The weather here in the Willamette Valley has continued to be on the wet side, and day time temps have been in the 60's. The grass crops are starting to take off and grow at a rapid rate now that spring fertilizer has been applied. The orchard crops have just finished with their flowering in Benton County. In Lane County, pears were in full bloom, and apples were just starting to bloom. Apricots were a near total freeze out. Blueberry buds were opening. Rain was affecting cherry bloom. Plums, prunes and peaches were done blooming, so far these crops look good. Farmers markets open first of April. Shallots, carrots, onions, lots of different lettuces. Mostly greenhouse grown. Nursery and greenhouse activities were off and running. Starting slow with the rain. Another week of rain will affect farmer market sales and weekend greenhouse sales.

COLUMBIA: Much rain and very cold over the weekend. Pastures continuing to pick up. A more normal weather pattern for April, with 60+ degree highs, may return next week. Nursery shipping in full throttle.

COOS/CURRY: Cool and rainy most of the week, with 1 to 1.5 inches precipitation on Saturday. Ground continues to be saturated to the point that pasture fertilization, application of waste and other farming activities are being delayed. Pastures remain in mostly poor to fair condition; with many "sacrifice areas" becoming muddy and devoid of vegetation and pastures too wet to utilize or still under silt deposits and/or water. No cranberry frost events were recorded at this location during the week. Average air temperatures increased somewhat at Brookings-Harbor and decreased very slightly at Bandon. Precipitation amounts increased at both Bandon and Brookings-Harbor. Local thundershowers and light hail showers were observed on 4/15/06. The Bandon (BANO) and Brookings-Harbor (BRKO) AgriMet weather stations have been upgraded from 4 hour transmissions to hourly transmissions. The AgriMet website will be updated hourly with current weather information within a minute or two after the station transmits. For more information on the timing updates, please go to the News link and the Current Weather Data link at the AgriMet website. Please see <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet>.

DOUGLAS: A warm start to the week turned back to cool temps, heavy rain, and some hail.

JACKSON: Again we had a wet week making fields too damp to plow or plant. Grain crops that are in are up, but looking for sunshine to get them going good. Hay, both alfalfa and grass, also needing some good sunny days. Plums, pears, and some apples are in bloom, orchards are spraying for moth, scab and mites. It is hard to get days that aren't too wet. Bees are quite slow with pollination. Still not much being done with vegetable crops. The ground remained too wet and cold. Lots of flower and vegetable starts being shipped out from greenhouses. Lots for sale at outlets. Still lots of nursery stock being sold. Mostly bare root, and

balled/burlap, mostly trees and shrubs. Cattle are out on some pastures now but still some getting supplemental feed. Spring calves are mostly all born and with mom's in the fields. Again another week with showers and cool temperatures not too good for needed field work, but of course there is always lots of maintenance and other upkeep to be done.

JOSEPHINE: The weather has been wet and cool. Crops are growing slowly from the cool weather. Some areas have had enough grass growth for cattle to be turned while other areas are still feeding because of the cold weather for this time of year. We are in a rut! Same as last week and week before. Rain, snow, sleet, hail, wind, with minimal sun. Good snow in hills to the valley floor but it quickly melted. Lots of blooming trees and flowers, both native and domestic. No killing frost this week although temps were below normal. Prolonged cooler temps have meant bulbs and other early flowering plants have kept their flowers longer resulting in a beautiful spring.

LINCOLN: Over three inches of rain recorded and three to four more inches expected over the weekend will make field work impossible during planting time.

MARION: Some sunshine aided pollination of the tree fruits. Additional rain hindered field tillage and spraying activities. Most farming activities are still behind where they should be at mid April. Rainfall and wet soil conditions hampered some spraying and fertilizing operations this week. Grass seed crops are behind in maturity so far this season. Final spring nitrogen applications are being applied now. Crops are finally growing in response to warmer temperatures. Fruit trees are starting to bloom. Ground is cold and wet throughout the county.

POLK: Temperatures this past weekend were colder than normal with heavy rain showers at times.

WASHINGTON: Clovers and alfalfa growing well, grass for seed doing well except where water damage has occurred. Berries leafing out and showing good color; filberts leafing out in good order. Greenhouse vegetables being sold in Saturday markets. Rhubarb fields looking good. Greenhouses were rotating potted plants, balling large trees and shrubs for shipment. Setting out new cuttings and bare root trees. Grass was being pastured in rotation plots. Temperature high 69 degrees, low 37 degrees. Humidity low 60 percent, high 85 percent.

YAMHILL: Cherries and prunes are in full bloom. The weather has been marginal for bee activity, which may pose a problem for pollination and fruit set. Hazelnut growers continue applying Eastern Filbert Blight control sprays. Scattered hail on 4/16. Some no-till planting occurred this week.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Cold wet weather continues to delay spring field work and impede pasture growth.

CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON: Some field work done this week. Many areas are still too wet with more rain forecasted. Reports of some winter grain mites on alfalfa in a couple of fields and were actually doing some damage in Deschutes County. Cool weather prevailed this week. Showers came through the area. There may be some delay in planting some fields. Pastures, grass hay, and alfalfa fields are greening up, with the exception of the higher elevation areas – maybe this coming week.

GILLIAM/WHEELER: Wet weather (snow/hail/rain) continues to hamper spring planting at higher elevations.

HARNEY: Some branding done but many delayed by wet weather. Reports of calf losses due to the wet weather are increasing. Range grass behind normal due to cold temperature.

HOOD RIVER: Cool, unsettled conditions prevailed during most of the week, slowing bloom development. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear near full bloom (WSU stage 7); Red Delicious apple at tight cluster to first pink (WSU stages 4 & 5); Bing cherry at first white to first bloom (WSU stage 6 & 7); Pinot noir grapes at budswell to wool stage (Eichhorn-Lorenz stages 2 & 3).

KLAMATH: More light rain and colder temperatures the first part of the week. A glimpse of sun at the end of the week quickly replaced by rain and scattered snow showers. The weather allowed for some spring field work to continue.

LAKE: Received rain, wind, and snow throughout the week. We now have a couple of inches of snow covering the ground. Lots of water in the county.

MALHEUR: Rain showers intermittent last week. Some field work is being caught up. However, the window for planting some row crops is quickly closing. Winter wheat looks good! Cooler temperatures are keeping the alfalfa growth down. Most livestock have been turned out onto spring range. Winter wheat looks good. Weather moderating some but scattered showers slowing down

field drying. Planting and field work starting up again on selected fields. Still some flooding in low lying areas. Cattle still being turned out as grass is available. Some still on hay. Hay is in short supply and high priced.

UNION: Cold and wet conditions limited field work this week, with receipt of approximately half inch of rain. Winter weather front moved in at the end of the week dropping about one inch of snow on the valley floor and dropping night temps to at or below freezing. The impact of the front is expected to last into earlier next week.

WALLOWA: Good reports are coming into the office concerning ponds in the areas which were dry in 2005. Most ponds are full from the recent winter storms. There are some in the Leap country which still need some more rainfall but they are also better than last year. Good storm throughout Easter weekend for moisture.

WASCO: Intermittent rain continues to make field work difficult. Cool temperatures slowed crop growth throughout Wasco County. Good soil moisture will be helpful when temperatures rise for spring growth. Wind and wet conditions have delayed ground applications of most sprays and aerial application may be required to deal with immediate weed or pest issues. Rain occurred Monday and Tuesday, while the rest of the week continued near normal spring weather. Frost on Saturday night, forced many cherry growers to turn on their large orchard fans to protect the cherry blossoms. Trees are in full bloom. Planting of new cherry trees, was active all week. A number of orchards had pulled old cherry trees to rotate into newer cherry varieties. The wheat fields look like fine green lawns. Seeding spring grain was active during the later half of week. Other field activities included field cultivation and weed spraying. Alfalfa fields in the Dufur valley are all green. Plants have grown from 4 to 8 inches high in the last week. Cattle are doing well on the new pasture grasses. Bing sweet cherry is nearing full bloom throughout much of Wasco County. Temperatures have been mild with no frost to date. Pollination weather has been good with moderate temperatures and little to no wind.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: April 16, 2006 (as of 11:00 am) ¹

Station	Air temperature ²				Growing degree days ³		Last week precip. ⁴			Season cum. precipitation ⁵				
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN ⁶	Total	DFN ⁶	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Days ⁷	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Pct. normal	Days ⁷	
COASTAL AREAS														
Astoria/Clatsop	37	58	48	+0	3	-4	2.20	1.09	7	69.66	13.03	123	150	
Bandon ⁸	43	64	53	+5	22	+15	1.91	0.86	6	60.59	9.03	118	119	
Crescent City	42	60	51	+2	15	-6	2.79	1.70	7	75.14	17.28	130	130	
Florence	37	64	49	+0	7	-5	3.06	1.79	6	75.26	9.28	114	142	
Tillamook	35	58	47	-1	-	-7	2.33	0.89	4	83.85	8.65	112	152	
WILLAMETTE VALLEY														
Aurora ⁸	39	66	50	+2	17	+3	1.50	0.85	7	45.68	11.28	133	130	
Corvallis	37	66	50	+2	15	+1	1.80	1.20	6	46.27	9.17	125	131	
Detroit Lake ⁸	33	63	46	+4	6	-1	3.47	2.43	6	93.01	34.95	160	148	
Eugene	36	66	51	+1	17	-2	1.56	0.82	6	41.68	-1.29	97	121	
Hillsboro	38	65	50	+2	15	+1	0.98	0.47	5	39.35	7.24	123	127	
McMinnville	38	67	51	+2	17	+2	1.36	0.77	6	36.29	-1.77	95	127	
Portland	39	65	51	+1	17	-3	1.50	0.94	6	35.78	5.75	119	131	
Salem	37	67	50	+2	15	+1	1.45	0.88	6	44.33	10.70	132	125	
SW VALLEYS														
Grants Pass	35	68	51	-2	19	-11	1.34	0.91	5	42.73	14.80	153	114	
Medford	30	68	50	-1	17	-8	0.66	0.38	4	23.99	7.97	150	91	
Roseburg	35	66	51	+1	22	-4	1.58	1.04	6	42.23	13.78	148	123	
NORTH CENTRAL														
Condon	27	62	46	+3	5	-2	0.91	0.62	5	13.07	2.97	129	78	
Echo ⁸	32	67	51	+1	19	-5	0.63	0.47	5	8.41	1.45	121	78	
Heppner	31	63	49	+2	11	-3	0.89	0.61	6	12.14	2.21	122	90	
Hermiston	29	68	52	+2	23	-1	0.56	0.40	3	8.74	1.78	126	63	
John Day	28	64	46	+0	9	-5	0.45	0.17	4	7.38	-0.99	88	92	
Madras ⁸	27	63	46	+0	5	-9	0.14	-0.02	6	10.53	2.92	138	93	
Moro	26	61	47	+1	3	-4	1.40	1.19	6	15.17	6.49	175	75	
Parkdale ⁸	29	63	45	-5	2	-15	0.53	0.13	7	42.02	14.32	152	130	
Pendleton	33	65	50	+1	15	-6	0.49	0.23	5	10.90	1.81	120	87	
The Dalles	27	68	51	+5	17	+3	0.36	0.15	3	16.94	6.79	167	84	
SOUTH CENTRAL														
Agency Lake ⁸	30	58	42	+2	-	-7	0.19	-0.02	3	18.27	5.37	142	103	
Bend	25	63	44	+2	1	-6	0.27	0.13	3	18.22	9.50	209	71	
Burns	29	63	43	+2	-	-7	0.28	0.14	4	12.46	5.66	183	85	
Christmas Valley ⁸	21	61	41	-4	-	-14	0.16	0.02	4	6.74	-2.24	75	79	
Klamath Falls	24	62	41	-3	-	-7	0.26	0.07	3	15.04	4.33	140	91	
Klamath Falls ⁸	23	61	41	-4	-	-7	0.22	0.03	5	14.83	4.12	138	117	
Lakeview	25	57	41	-2	-	-7	0.40	0.12	3	8.12	-3.46	70	64	
Lorella ⁸	23	61	41	-4	-	-7	0.55	0.36	6	16.96	6.25	158	107	
Redmond	25	65	46	+3	6	-1	0.04	-0.10	2	8.83	2.96	150	73	
Worden ⁸	24	63	41	-3	-	-7	0.24	0.05	5	12.60	1.89	118	106	
NORTHEAST														
Baker City	25	64	45	+2	5	-2	0.04	-0.13	3	6.82	0.53	108	75	
Joseph	28	60	43	+3	-	-7	0.63	0.21	5	14.99	-3.31	82	101	
La Grande	28	64	47	+1	11	-3	0.51	0.16	4	5.36	-6.88	44	66	
Prairie City ⁸	27	61	43	+5	-	-7	0.42	0.07	3	10.63	-4.91	68	82	
Union	29	65	48	+3	8	-4	0.29	0.01	3	8.54	0.11	101	88	
SOUTHEAST														
Ontario	34	72	51	+1	21	-5	0.18	0.04	5	11.90	4.59	163	79	
Rome	29	69	47	+1	5	-9	0.27	0.13	5	8.55	3.44	167	73	

¹ Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2006: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

² Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

³ Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

⁴ Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

⁵ Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2005.

⁶ DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

⁷ Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

⁸ Agri-Met weather stations.